

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

**Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-53 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended. Claims 35-53 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) citing Frischer (US 5,989,380), Moroff et al. (US 4,324,832), Lavigne (*Pulp & Paper Dictionary*), Dudley (US 4,089,765), Wang et al. (US 5,935,880), Jellinek et al. (US 4,810,751) and GB2 292 082, either separately or in combination.

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**§ 102(b) & § 103(a) Rejections**

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,324,832 to Moroff et al. in view of Lavigne (*Pulp & Paper Dictionary*) and Dudley (US 4,089,765); independent claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,989,380 to Frischer. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

In a telephone interview on 6 September 2005, the discussion focused on amending independent claims 1 and 19 adding the limitation that the requisite forming, finishing and drying stations be deployed in a single production line. It was noted that such amendments must be limited to language supported by the specification. The Examiner indicated that claims that included the limitation of deploying the requisite devices in a single production line would, in the Examiner's opinion, overcome the prior art of record. Therefore, the amendments herein presented are directed toward a better expression of that feature of the instant invention.

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That is to say, both Moroff et al. and Frischer clearly teach the use of commercially-available materials (paper or non-woven web):

Moroff in column 3, lines 37-39,

“...As substrates for impregnation, commercially-available raw decorative paper having conventional surface weight of 30-400 g/m<sup>2</sup> are employed...” (emphasis added).

Frischer in column 5, lines 22-25,

“...A material exhibiting paper-like properties suitable for use in the invention process may be obtained from Dexter Corporation, and in known as grade 11984...”

This clearly indicates that neither Moroff nor Frischer provide hint or suggestion of a continuous, in-line processing of the material, from web-formation, through coating, to drying.

This is in clear contrast to the instant invention that teaches: on page 10, lines

“...a principle of the present invention is to introduce the step of applying a finishing agent into the in-line portion of the initial production of the non-woven fabric...”

and lines 16-18,

“...The term ‘in-line’ as used herein as used herein refers to the actual production line that produces the non-woven fabric, terminating at the initial take-up roll...” (emphasis added);

and in Figures 1 and 2.

In order to further distinguish the features of the instant invention over the cited prior art, the methods claims in both claims 1 and 19 are now amended to include the limitation of “providing a production line for production a web of non-woven fabric.” Claim 1 has now been amend to state that the apparatus for forming the non-woven web fabric, the finishing unit and a drying unit are all deployed in the production line. Claim 19 has now been amend to state that the apparatus for forming

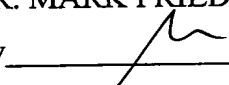
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the non-woven web fabric and the finishing unit are both deployed in the production line. This is clearly distinct from the methods both of Moroff et al. and Frischer. Support for these amendments is found on page 10, lines 10-12 and 16-18, and in Figures 1 and 2.

The Applicant believes that the above comments completely overcome the Examiner's rejections of claims 1 and 19 on § 102(b) and § 103(a) grounds, thereby rendering the rejections of claims 2-18 and 20-34 moot since they are now shown to depend from allowable independent claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 19 and hence dependent claims 2-18 and 20-34, are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,  
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